

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 ARA-06 EA-07

AGRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02 MCT-01 /114 W

-----091441Z 086506 /42

R 091244Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SUVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, XA, EEC

SUBJECT: ACP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN KAMPALA MAKES NO MAJOR  
PROGRESS

REF: (A) 76 EC BRUSSELS 7184, (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS 10679,

(C) EC BRUSSELS A-067, (D) 76 EC BRUSSELS A-501

1. SUMMARY: ACP COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS  
TELL US THAT THE ANNUAL ACP MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN  
KAMPALA ON FEBRUARY 21-23 MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING  
OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THE MEETING PRIMARILY PREPARED FOR THE  
APRIL 13-15 EC/ACP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN FIJI. ACP  
REPRESENTATIVES RESPONDED COOLLY TO UGANDA'S CLAIMS THAT  
THE PRESS WAS EXAGGERATING CONDITIONS IN UGANDA. END SUMMARU.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC

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(ACP) COUNTRIES WHICH BELONG TO THE LOME CONVENTION BRIEFED  
US ON THE RESULTS OF THE ACP MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN  
KAMPALA. THIS MEEETING PRIMARILY PREPARED THE ACP  
POSITION FOR THE FORTHCOMING EC/ACP MINISTERIAL MEETING  
IN FIJI. THERE WAS NO MAJOR PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES  
WHICH THE ACPS PLAN TO TAKE UP AT THIS MEETING. (SEE  
REFTELS.) THE ACPS PLAN TO EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING

ISSUES AT FIJI: 1) THE GUARANTTED PRICE FOR ACP PREFERENTIAL SUGAR EXPORTS TO THE EC; 2) EXPANSION OF THE LIST OF COMMODITIES ELIGIBLE UNDER STABEX AND MODIFICATION OF THE STABEX REFERENCE PERIOD; 3) RESOLUTION OF TRADE ISSUED CONCERNING ACP EXPORTS OF PEANUTS, RUM, AND BEEF AND VEAL.

3. THE COUNCIL AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE PROPOSED REGIONAL PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. (SEE REF. C) SEVERAL ACPS, HOWEVER, WANTED TO DISCUSS THE EC CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THESE PROJECTS. THE ACP ALSO AGREED TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED TIME PERIOD IN WHICH THE ACPS HAD TO OBTAIN FINANCING FOR THESE PROPOSED PROJECTS. THE COUNCIL ALSO RESOLVED TO IMPROVE INTRA-ACP COOPERATION. ACP OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE ACPS PLAN TO EXCHANGE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW, EXPERTS AND TEACHERS.

4. THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED THE BUDGET FOR THE ACP SECRETARIAT IN BRUSSELS, WHICH WILL SHORTLY MOVE INTO A NEW BUILDING PROVIDED BY THE EC. THE COUNCIL AGREED TO ALLOCATE AN EXTRA \$1.2 MILLION TO HIRE ADDITIONAL STAFF IN ORDER TO HAVE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION FACILITIES FOR ACP MEETINGS.

5. THE UGANDA TRADE MINISTER CHAIRED THE MEETING. HE INDICATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE LOME CONVENTION AND CALLED FOR CLOSE ACP COOPERATION. IN HIS ADDRESS TO

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THE COUNCIL, UGANDA PRESIDENT AMIN CONDEMNED THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS FOR EXAGGERATING EVENTS IN UGANDA. ACP OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT AMIN RECEIVED A VERY COOL RECEPTION AND ALL PARTICIPANTS AVOIDED SUPPORTING HIS POLICIES. IN FACT ONLY 38 OF THE 49 ACP COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED AND MOST OF THESE SENT AMBASSADORS RATHER THAN MINISTERS. NINE ACP MINISTERS ATTENDED THE MEETING. NONE OF THE MAJOR STATES BORDERING UGANDA PARTICIPATED. ACP OFFICIALS ADD THAT THEIR POLICY IS TO ESCHEW POLITICAL ISSUES AT THESE MEETINGS. (SEE REF. D.) FOR THIS REASON, NO STATEMENTS WERE MADE REGARDING UGANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT TOOK PLACE AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED ASSASINATION OF THE UGANDAN ARCHBISHOP AND TWO OTHER OFFICIALS, THE COUNCIL TOOK NO POSITION ON THIS INCIDENT. DESPITE ITS POLICY OF AVOIDING POLITICAL POSITIONS, THE COUNCIL DID SUPPORT A RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY LESOTHO WHICH CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICA'S

INTERFERENCE WITH LESOTHO'S SHIPMENTS THROUGH  
TRANSKEI. END COMMENT.HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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